





## THE SUNDAY UNION.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1890.

ISSUED BY THE

SACRAMENTO PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Office, Third Street, between J and K.

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

Published six days in each week, with Double Sheet on Saturdays, and

THE SUNDAY UNION.

Published every Sunday morning, making a

Sixty-two issues a year.

For one year, \$2.00.

For six months, \$1.00.

For three months, \$0.50.

For one month, \$0.15.

Subscribers served by Carriers at FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR. In all other cities and towns the paper can be had of the principal Periodical Dealers, Newsmen and Agents.

The SUNDAY UNION is carried by Carriers at TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER MONTH.

THE WEEKLY UNION.

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Oregon and Washington—Continued cold; fair weather.

BENJAMIN REICK, in the *Popular Science Monthly*, asks a question that bears its answer upon its face:

Do not the facts disclosed by our social statistics cause it to appear that, in the adjustment of our schools, we are neglecting the material advancement and development of wealth, and that we are correspondingly losing in the direction of moral growth and culture?

We take it there are no two opinions upon that subject. We would not introduce into the schools religious codes, but we would have some turn given to the tendency to move upon too hard material lines of progress, so that the moral sense shall be more quickened, and the duties of man to man more dwelt upon. The school system that permits decay of moral growth and culture is not wisely directed.

MR. KEENEY, in the *Forum*, is sound in the conclusion he reaches, that farming in the United States now requires versatile and skilled labor; that success in it calls for uncommon ability, and that modern farming demands men trained to it. In a great degree, was not this always so? Has it not always been true that good farming involved skilled labor and ability of a special degree of excellence? Of course, in this day, when the competitive strife is greater, when the attrition in all business is sharper, there is a call for keener wits than formerly in farming. But the economic farmer, the really successful farmer, however unintelligent on other subjects, always was a man of special, if not uncommon, ability. In the nature of things he had to be.THE Springfield *Republican* is agitating the reform of biennial elections. It is full time. Indeed, it has long been a puzzle why the people of Massachusetts have so tenaciously clung to the inconvenience of yearly elections of Governor and yearly sessions of the Legislature. California formerly elected its Governor biennially, but it considered that a long step in advance was made when the change to a gubernatorial election once in four years was ordered. The politicians would like elections for all State officers to occur yearly, and would be better pleased if the Legislature were in session all the time, but the people prefer fewer elections and that the sessions of the Legislature should not be held often than once in two years. Yet here is the State of New York consenting to be torn by yearly sessions of the legislative body, while nearly all the other States are striving to have as few sessions and as infrequent elections as possible, consistently with good government.

M. ZOLA wants to occupy Emile Augier's chair among the immortals. He declares that he is fit for the distinguished honor, and that he will apply for it and not be discouraged by defeat. He insists that his ambition will not be satisfied until he is a member of the French Academy, and that he proposes to live long enough to satisfy this desire. We hope that Zola may die at a reasonably old age, for if he lives until he is elected to the Academy he is likely to become so old as to be an object of supreme pity. What Zola has done to command the honor of a chair in the Academy the readers of clean literature will never be able to discover, for such will never be Zola. If the distinction of the badge of the age is a distinction, wrong was done to Paul de Kock, and all the train of course and libidinous writers. If France confers the honors of the Academy on such grinders of filth, and such apostles of snuff and realism combined, then in America there will be some excuse for literary canonization of Marrayat, and the conferment of honorary degrees on such writers of trash—but clean—known as the Mrs. E. D. N. Southworth school.

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If the parents of such daughters did not kick the impudent fellow from the house, public opinion would metaphorically administer a similar rebuke. Because Mary Anderson is an actress no more gives warrant for the invasion of her privacy than the social position of any other prominent woman justifies putting her on the rack, and there are scores more prominent than Mary. There is, in truth, such assurance

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Oliver Wendell Holmes, in the *Atlantic*, says that the feeling comes to many aged people that they have outlived their usefulness; that they are in the way; a drag on the wheels. That is probably true, but it is more true in America than elsewhere, for the simple reason that our children are not trained to respect and succor old age, as are the youths of Europe. It is a reproach to the American social system that this is so. There ought to be no reason for the aged feeling that they are in the way. If our youth were properly trained, old age in America would enjoy tranquil rest and high respect as a right, and the aged feel that they are as important a place in the social economy as the young. We can well take valuable lessons from the Jews in this matter, who train their children to regard old age as a crown of honor, and the care of the aged as sacred a duty as any that can devolve upon manhood. When a people come to look upon the aged as incurable rather than as sacred trusts and living examples for youth, they are in decadence, and there is at the core of such society the cancer that consumes human sympathy and destroys the best of life.

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The Century Magazine management sent one of its editors to California last summer. One of the results is now manifest in the editorial agitation that periodical has begun upon "The Neglect of the Yosemite Valley." The chief point made begins in these words:

The American people are probably not aware of their proprietorship in the Yosemite. In 1854, by act of Congress, the valley was placed in the vicinity of the Big Trees of Mariposa county, and the Yosemite National Park, with the stipulation never to be sold, the State shall accept this grant upon the condition that the people of the State shall be permitted to use the Yosemite for public use, resort and recreation; shall be amenable for the same to the laws of the State, and shall be held to the same as much of the owners of the Yosemite as a citizen of California, and his right to be heard in suggestion or protest is as undoubted.

Then follows the complaint that the policy of the Yosemite Commission, in its landscape gardening—so to speak—is not commendable. It is a matter that will bear discussion, for the truth can always endure debate and never asks for concealment. The question the Century asks: "Has the policy of touching the treatment of the landscape been wise, and does it accord with the best taste?" is one not to be answered of hand. It is not our purpose to debate it now, but to call attention to this influential voice at the East which preaches to some hundreds of thousands of intelligent hearers. Whatever form the discussion may take that the Century's criticism provokes, it cannot but result in good, since it will quicken intelligence in California concerning the splendid trust that has been imposed upon us. We take it that none of the Commissioners of the past or present will feel that the debate the Century opens will be profitless.

THE AGED.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, in the *Atlantic*, says that the feeling comes to many aged people that they have outlived their usefulness; that they are in the way; a drag on the wheels. That is probably true, but it is more true in America than elsewhere, for the simple reason that our children are not trained to respect and succor old age, as are the youths of Europe. It is a reproach to the American social system that this is so. There ought to be no reason for the aged feeling that they are in the way. If our youth were properly trained, old age in America would enjoy tranquil rest and high respect as a right, and the aged feel that they are as important a place in the social economy as the young. We can well take valuable lessons from the Jews in this matter, who train their children to regard old age as a crown of honor, and the care of the aged as sacred a duty as any that can devolve upon manhood. When a people come to look upon the aged as incurable rather than as sacred trusts and living examples for youth, they are in decadence, and there is at the core of such society the cancer that consumes human sympathy and destroys the best of life.

RECENTLY, in Zanesville, Ohio, five deaths occurred that the physicians are all agreed were directly traceable to the conveying of the body of a child, who had died of malignant diphtheria, from another town to Zanesville for burial, and at which place an elaborate funeral over the body was held. An exchange characterizes this as trifling with death. It was trifling with life, rather. If there is no law in Zanesville to prohibit public funerals of those who die of infectious diseases, then the Zanesville people have none to blame but themselves for the five lives sacrificed to carelessness and the folly of parade of the dead. Philadelphia years ago passed an ordinance prohibiting public funerals of those who die of diphtheria, which gives rise to the inquiry, "Is there such an ordinance in Sacramento?" If there is not, the sooner it is passed the better, since we do not know at what time some other town may permit a body of one dying of the infectious disease to be shipped here for burial. It is common procedure to erect such statutes; it is compliance with the established judgment of sanitarians and physicians. We do not permit public funerals of those who die of small-pox; we go so far as to isolate the living who are sick with that disease; but, in truth, it is not more dangerous than diphtheria. The American Public Health Association long ago reported that when one dies of diphtheria the body should be disinfected and treated as liable to spread the disease and to prevent that it should be sequestered from the living and buried soon in a manner to prevent, so far as is possible, the likelihood of spreading the infection.

SENATOR REAGAN proposes to have the Government suspend the privilege of importers from Europe to Mexico, by which they can pass goods through the United States in bond, until Mexico abandons the free zone, or neutral strip along the Rio Grande, into which imports can be brought free of duty. It has become a great seat of opium in the smuggling, and both Governments are defrauded of immense sums in consequence. Mexico would willingly break up the customs neutrality of the zone, but fears the power of the smugglers, who are strong enough to write border reforms.

The bill of Senator Reagan will therefore probably be welcomed by the Mexican Government, since it will enable it to prove to its people that the maintenance of the free







